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UNCLAS 6T

Venezuela: Bolivar State Governor Says Situation Normal

PA0402122792 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 0943 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Telephone interview with Andres Velasquez, governor of the State of Bolivar, by unidentified reporter -- live]

[Text] [Reporter] What is the situation in the State of Bolivar?

[Velasquez] It is completely normal. From the very moment we received the news, we went to the governor's office and contacted the various security forces, including the Directorate for Intelligence and Prevention Services, Judicial Technical Police, and the commanders of the various forces headquartered in the State of Bolivar that are branches of our Armed Forces. The situation is completely normal. There is no insurgent outbreak here. The members of the Armed Forces in our state have displayed total loyalty to the democratic regime and the governor's office. They are awaiting any orders that we might issue at a given time as the situation may warrant.

We can do nothing else but condemn the coup attempt that took place early this morning. Here in the State of Bolivar, on behalf of the government of this state, the governors of Guayana, and the countries' workers, I wish to say that we are defending constitutional rule, the democratic regime, democratic institutions, and the law.

We also wish to say that democracy -- although it is true that it is imperfect and sometimes calls for harsh and strong debates -- allows, through a regime of freedom and universal vote that is secret and direct, the replacement of rulers who fail to measure up to the people's will.

I wish to voice to the president of the Republic and members of the cabinet the full solidarity of the government of the State of Bolivar; our democratic solidarity; our solidarity to the Constitution; and of course, to let them know that we are on the alert for any situation that might develop.

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